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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

: Confirmation No. 6970

Takahiro OSHITA et al.

: Docket No.01213/GEB667

Serial No. 09/180,601

: Group Art Unit 1764

Filed November 10, 1998

: Examiner A. Doroshenk

FLUIDIZED-BED GASIFICATION
METHOD AND APPARATUS

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

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Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of August 14, 2002, a one-month extension of time being filed concurrently herewith, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of August 14, 2002 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 -20 and 22-30 as being unpatentable over the Ohshita reference (USP 5,156,099) in view of the Hirayama reference (USP 5,620,488). However, those rejections are respectfully traversed and, for the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-20 and 22-30 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for treating combustible waste materials, in which the waste materials are gasified in the first stage of the system (i.e., in a fluidized-bed furnace) so as to generate *combustible gas*. The fluidized-bed furnace includes a *heat recovery region* for controlling the temperature of the fluidized-bed furnace during the